

that there is a city ordinance prohibiting us from sitting down during the hours we work—that we must walk

'Bathhouse' issue clarified

DEAR EDITOR:

This is in rebuttal to Ms. Grabowski's letter of opposition to the reopening of the Wilson Avenue Pool (not Bathhouse). Obviously, she is not fully aware of the reasoning behind the attempts to reopen this facility.

Let me enlighten her on some of the facts pertaining to this project, which, by the way, is not worthless but will be a benefit to the community and its residents if we succeed.

First, allow me to clarify her statement on the need for "Public Bathhouses." Our attempts are not to bring back what was, but instead to see the community given the opportunity for better recreation. When this facility was opened in 1917, it was originally used as a bathhouse, but year-round swimming was also available. This is what we are trying to regain—the pool facilities, not the bathhouse facilities.

As for the location of the building, I agree, the neighborhood has come a long way. Property owners have modernized with changing times, while the bathhouse property continues to deteriorate. This is the fault of the city. Even though the building is city-owned, officials refuse to maintain it.

When the building was closed in 1979, the city did not take proper measures to secure and protect this property from vandals. As we all know, any abandoned building becomes the target of vandalism, which is what happened in this case. I don't like living across the street from the eyesore, but at least some of the Ironbound residents are devoting their time and efforts to see something good become of this building. If Ms. Grabowski really cared about her community, she would be doing something, too, instead of complaining.

We don't need private developers. Their intentions are only to build more housing. There's plenty of available property in the City of Newark. Why do they have to be so persistent about this particular parcel? With two condominium complexes already in the Ironbound, I think we have enough housing. What we don't have is a place for young and old to get physical exercise, enjoyment and relaxation, which is what we really need.

The citizens are naive to the tactics of our city officials. As long as the mayor continues to refuse to give the go-ahead on this recreation project, he is indirectly stating that he doesn't care about the Ironbound or its residents. Personally, I don't trust any of the city officials. They approved projects behind our backs (the state prison, for example) and expect us to accept them without retaliation. In the last 10 or so years, the Ironbound has managed to get all the garbage no other community wants. What is this, the dumping grounds of New Jersey?

I would be interested to hear Ms. Grabowski's opinion on the state prison and the incinerator. If she would like to know more about the Wilson Avenue Pool Project, she is welcome to attend any one of the community meetings.

Joan E. Pikul,
Newark

Ironbound recreation

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Shame on you, Janet Grabowski. You obviously have no children or you must have the time and money to take your children to places outside the Ironbound for recreation.

My children are teenagers now and can get around by themselves, but they missed having a place to go to swim when they were younger. They were well aware of what

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Shame on you, Janet Grabowski. You obviously have no children or you must have the time and money to take your children to places outside the Ironbound for recreation.

My children are teenagers now and can get around by themselves, but they missed having a place to go to swim when they were younger. They were well aware of what other areas had and resented the fact that they virtually had nothing in the form of recreation. Perhaps it is due to people like you, Ms. Grabowski. Maybe you would rather have an incinerator in your yard than a bath house.

People of the Ironbound, wake up! Our youth is waiting for us.

Lois Somodi,
Newark

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